

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 02303 211201Z

16

ACTION OES-04

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AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

RUMJIJGXAMEMBASSY SAIGON 4669

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY VIENTIENE

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI

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TAGS: TPHY, GQ, JA, US, XC, XE

SUBJECT: WEATHER - PROJECT STORMFURY

REF: TOKYO 13794 OCT. 23, 1974

SUMMARY: GOJ HAS DELIVERED STRONGLY NEGATIVE REACTION TO
U.S. PROPOSAL FOR TRANSFER OF PROJECT STORMFURY TO WESTERN
PACIFIC AND HAS EXPRESSED HOPE THAT U.S. WILL NOT INTRODUCE
RESOLUTION ON THIS MATTER AT ESCAP MEETING BEGINNING
FEB. 25. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 02303 211201Z

1. EIJIRO NODA, DEPUTY GENERAL OF UN BUREAU CALLED

IN SCICOUNS TODAY TO PRESENT JAPANESE TALKING PAPER RESPONDING TO U.S. PROPOSALS CONCERNING TRANSFER OF PROJECT STORMFURY TO WESTERN PACIFIC. TEXT OF RESPONSE FOLLOWS;

"1. THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN HAS NO OBJECTION TO THE EFFECT THAT THE TYPHOON MODIFICATION EXPERIMENT WOULD PROVIDE NEW METEOROLOGICAL DATA ON TYPHOONS AND SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTE TOWARD THE DEVELOPMENT OF METEOROLOGY AND, IN PARTICULAR, TOWARD THE EXPLICATION OF TYPHOON STRUCTURES AND ACTIVITIES.

HOWEVER, IT HAS NOT BEEN MADE CLEAR HOW THAT RAINFALL OR THE DIRECTIONS OF TYPHOONS WILL BE AFFECTED BY SEEDING TYPHOONS. THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN, THEREFORE, HAS BEEN APPREHENSIVE WHETHER SUCH EXPERIMENT MIGHT CAUSE OTHER TYPES OF DAMAGE TO OTHER REGIONS WHICH OTHERWISE, WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED.

"2. TAKING SUCH CONCERN INTO ACCOUNT, THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN HAS BEEN ADVOCATING, SINCE THE 4TH SESSION OF THE TYPHOON COMMITTEE, THAT PRIOR CONSULTATIONS ON BILATERAL BASIS SHOULD BE HELD BETWEEN THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH INTEND TO CARRY OUT SUCH EXPERIMENTS AND OTHER COUNTRIES CONCERNED. THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAD AN OPPORTUNITY OF RECEIVING A MISSION OF EXPERTS DISCUSSIONS ON BILATERAL BASIS. CAREFUL STUDY AT A HIGH LEVEL HAS BEEN MADE ON THE RESULTS OF THESE DISCUSSIONS AMONG THE MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES CONCERNED. IN THIS STUDY, THE GOVERNMENT TOOK INTO CONSIDERATION THE PRESENT METEOROLOGY, ITS THEORY AND THE OBSERVATIONS OBTAINED FROM THE EXPERIMENTS ALREADY MADE ON HURRICANES. THE CONCLUSION HAS BEEN REACHED THAT THE EFFECTS OF SEEDINGS ON THE DIRECTION OF TYPHOONS ARE YET TO BE PROVED MORE DEFINITELY AND SCIENTIFICALLY AND THAT FURTHER BASIC STUDY SHOULD BE MADE.

"3. IF SUCH EXPERIMENTS ARE MADE ON TYPHOONS IN THE WEST PACIFIC, WHICH HAVE FAR MORE ENORMOUS ENERGY THAN THE HURRICANES IN THE ATLANTIC, A POSSIBILITY CANNOT BE EXCLUDED OF CAUSING OTHER TYPES OF DAMAGE WHICH OTHERWISE WOULD NOT BE CAUSED. THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN, WITH ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LIFE AND PROPERTY OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 TOKYO 02303 211201Z

JAPANESE NATIONALS, CANNOT ACCEPT SUCH AN EVENTUALITY. MOREOVER, OPPOSITIONS, IN THE PUBLIC OPINIONS AGAINST THE PROPOSED TRANSFER OF EXPERIMENTS HAVE BEEN CONSISTENTLY STRONG.

"4. FOR THESE REASONS STATED ABOVE, THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN CANNOT AGREE, AT THIS STAGE, TO THE PROPOSAL BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ON THE TRANSFER OF THE STORMFURY

PROJECT TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

IF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MAKE SUCH PROPOSAL, AT THE 31ST SESSION OF ESCAP BY RESENTING A RESOLUTION, FOR EXAMPLE, THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN WOULD BE OBLIGED TO VOTE AGAINST IT. THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN HOPES, THEREFORE, THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT PRESENT SUCH A RESOLUTION AT THE COMING COMMISSION SESSION OF ESCAP, TAKING THE JAPANESE POSITION INTO CONSIDERATION."

2. OBVIOUS PURPOSE OF DELIVERING RESPONSE AT THIS TIME IS TO SEEK TO AVOID INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION FAVORING PROJECT STORMFURY AT FEB. 25 MEETING OF ESCAP. LAST COMMUNICATION EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED ON THIS POSSIBILITY IS OCT. 23 MEMORANDUM TO FILES PREPARED BY CHAPIN OF OES/SCI. ON BASIS OF THIS MEMORANDUM, SCICOUNS INFORMED NODA THAT,, WHILE EMBASSY UNAWARE OF ANY FINAL DECISION ON INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION, WE BELIEVED THINKING WAS IN DIRECTION OF DEFERRAL OF INTRODUCTION FOR TIME BEING. WE SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE PROCEDURAL ISSUE MIGHT BE AVOIDED BY DECISION NOT TO INTRODUCE RESOLUTION, BASIC ISSUE OF UNDERTAKING EXPERIMENTS,, WHICH U.S. SCIENTISTS STRONGLY FAVORED, STILL REMAINED.

3. WHILE NEGATIVE JAPANESE REACTION IS HARDLY UNEXPECTED (SEE PARA. 5 REFTTEL), IT IS IN CONSIDERABLY STRONGER TERMS THAN EMBASSY HAD ANTICIPATED. IN ADDITION, THERE HAS BEEN AN INTERESTING SHIFT IN BASIS OF JAPANESE ARGUMENTS AWAY FROM POSSIBILITY THAT STORMFURY MIGHT, AMONG OTHER THINGS, ADVERSELY AFFECT BADLY NEEDED TYPHOON-ASSOCIATED RAINFALL TOWARD A LINE THAT DEPENDS EXCLUSIVELY ON POSSIBILITY OF INCREASED DAMAGE RESULTING FROM STORMFURY. WE ASSUME THIS SHIFT IN EMPHASIS REFLECTS GOJ CONCLUSION THAT EMPHASIS ON DAMAGES REPRESENTS STRONGER PLATFORM ON WHICH TO COUNTER OTHER COUNTRIES' INTEREST IN PROJECT THAN ESSENTIALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ECONOMIC ARGUMENT THAT RAINFALL MIGHT BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED

4. IN BRIEF DISCUSSION OF GOJ RESPONSE, SCICOUNS OBSERVED THAT SOME EXPOSURE COUNTRIES OF REGION WHICH HAVE EQUAL OR GREATER EXPOSURE THAN JAPAN TO TYPHOONS SAW MERIT IN PROJECT STORMFURY AS BEST HOPE FOR REDUCING FUTURE DAMAGE. THUS, CONFLICTING VIEWS AS TO WHETHER STORMFURY INCREASED OR DECREASED RISK OF TYPHOON DAMAGE WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AND RECONCILED. EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT BEST TACTIC FOR ACCOMPLISHING TRANSFER OF STORMFURY WITHOUT RISKING MAJOR JAPANESE PROTEST IS BY ALLOWING OTHER COUNTRIES OF REGION TO SEEK POSITIVE CONSENSUS, INCLUDING JAPAN, ON BASIS OF POSITIVE BENEFITS OF PROJECT IN LEARNING TO REDUCE TYPHOON DAMAGES.

5. FONOFF REPS DID NOT EXPAND ON TALKING PAPAER OTHER THAN
TO POINT OUT THAT ESCAP MEETINGS ARE NORMALLY CONDUCTED "IN
THE ASIAN MANNER"; E.E., BY CONSENSUS, RATHER THAN BY VOTE.
AND TO NOTE IN A LOW KEY THAT POSSIBLE DAMAGES COULD EVEN LEAD
TOCLAIMS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.
HODGSON

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